

Message Text

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45

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 IGA-02

INT-05 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 CIEP-01 TRSE-00

SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 COME-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06

SAM-01 IO-11 /120 W

----- 122295

R 310800Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY SANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7227

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USUN NEW YORK 147

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANA 0301

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, ETRD, YE

SUBJECT: YEMEN SALT

REF: SANA 0107

1. IN MEETING JAN 27 YAR FONMIN ASNAJ CAME UP ON HIS OWN WITH CONFIRMATION OF REFTEL REPORT THAT SOVIETS HAD OFFERED BUY YEMEN SALT. ASNAJ SAID SOVIETS HAD OFFERED TAKE "WHOLE OUTPUT", WHICH WOULD BE 1.2 MILLION TONS A YEAR IF THIS FACILITY, WHEN FINALLY PUT TO USE, CAN PERFORM ACCORDING TO DESIGN.

2. ASNAJ SAID PAYMENT WOULD BE IN PART IN DOLLARS AND IN PART TO SETTLE YAR DEBT TO USSR. INTERNATIONAL
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PRICE OF SALT WOULD BE USED. (AS I HAD EARLIER PASSED ON SUMMARY OF SEOUL 0488 (NOTAL) ASNAJ COMMENTED

WITH WRY SMILE THAT SOVIET DEAL WOULD BE "GOOD
NEWS TO ROK.")

3. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION, JEHGMAN SAID SOVIETS
MIGHT NOT EVEN INSIST ON SOME PRIOR ALLOCATION OF SOME
OF PAYMENTS TO DEBT SERVICE.

COMMENT: ASSUME THAT THIS SORT OF DEAL IS PART OF
SOVIET EFFORT TO WORK OUT SOME PAYMENT MEANS FOR
SOVIET WEAPONS WHICH RECENTLY ACCEPTED BY YEMEN.
IF YAR RECYCLED PART OR ALL OF SOVIETS PAYMENTS
FOR SALT INTO DEBT SERVICE, SOVIETS WOULD GET MORE
THAN THEY ARE GETTING NOW. WHICH IS NEXT TO NOTHING.
SOVIETS WOULD ALSO FORGE ANOTHER IMPORTANT LINK WITH YEMEN;

THROUGH ITS ONLY IMPORTANT EXPORT INDUSTRY. RE NEXT
STEPS BY ROK, SEEMS DOUBTFUL TO ME THAT ANOTHER
DIPLOMATIC VISIT TO SANA BY ROK AMBASSADOR
WILL BE VERY USEFUL IF SOVIET SALT PURCHASE HAS, IN
EFFECT, REDUCED ROK AID OFFER. WOULD ALSO SUGGEST
THAT ZIKRI, A PRIVATE CITIZEN, WHO SELF-APPOINTED
REP OF YAR TRADE WITH FAR EAST (AND ESPECIALLY WITH
JAPAN) IS NOT RPT NOT THE MAN TO BET ON IN DEALS
WITH YARG. THERE NO HARM IN PROVIDING HIM INFO
ON PROSPECTIVE ROK-YAR TRADE AND AID BUT MAIN
CHANNEL SHOULD BE THROUGH YARG FON OFFICE AND
ASNAJ.
RANSOM

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04 MAY 2006

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